

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6092

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

FAA BRUSSELS

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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FRANKFURT FOR FAA

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, GW, WB

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS SLOWDOWN;
MODERN AIR TRANSPORT INTEREST IN GDR ALLEGED OFFERS
TO CARRIERS OF OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS.

1. SUMMARY: THE DEADLOCK BETWEEN THE FRG AND ATC CONTROLLERS CONTINUES. SPORADIC, UNPREDICTABLE DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS CONTINUE TO INTERFERE WITH THE AIR TRANSPORT SYSTEM AND BOTH HANNOVER AIRPORT AND FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION HAVE BEEN CLOSED. REQUESTS BY MODERN AIR TRANSPORT AND LAKER AIRWAYS FOR PERMISSION TO APPLY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE GDR AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALLEGED OFFERS BY THE GDR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA OF OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS OUT OF WEST BERLIN ON THE GDR NORTH/ SOUTH AIRWAY HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN BY THE US AND UK CIVIL AIR ATTACHES.

2. THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ATC CONTROLLERS AND THE FRG CONTINUES AT A COMPLETE DEADLOCK. DELAYS OF SEVERAL HOURS AND CANCELLATIONS OF AIR SERVICES, ESPECIALLY ON GERMAN DOMESTIC ROUTES CONTINUE WITH NO APPARENT END IN SIGHT. THE PRESS TODAY REPORTS THAT MOST RECENT SUGGESTIONS, INCLUDING ONE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEUTRAL MEDIATOR, HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (FMT). THE FRG'S POSITION IS THAT UNDER ITS LAWS A DISPUTE BECOMES SUBJECT TO MEDIATION ONLY WHEN THERE IS A LEGAL STRIKE TAKING PLACE. THIS IS NOT THE CASE WITH THE PRESENT SLOWDOWN AND SICK- OUT, AND BOTH THE FMT AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE MAINTAINING THEIR DETERMINATION NOT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE CONTROLLERS WHILE THE SLOWDOWN CONTINUES.

3. TRANSPORT MINISTER LAURITZEN ANNOUNCED ON THE EVENING OF JULY 2 THAT WITH ONLY FIVE CONTROLLERS OUT OF THIRTY WILLING TO WORK AT HANNOVER, HANNOVER AIRPORT AND FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION WOULD BE CLOSED EFFECTIVE 7:00 P. M. HANNOVER CONTINUES CLOSED JULY 3 AND IT IS NOT KNOWN WHEN IT WILL RE- OPEN.

4. BERLIN/ FRG AIR TRAFFIC CONTINUES TO BE GIVEN A PRIORITY, AND THE AIRLINES ARE OPERATING WITH VARYING DELAYS AND SOME CANCELLATIONS. THE CLOSING OF HANNOVER MEANT THE CLOSING OF THE CENTER CORRIDOR TO CIVIL TRAFFIC, AND FLIGHTS BETWEEN BERLIN AND COLOGNE AND DUSSELDORF ARE BEING ROUTED VIA THE SOUTH CORRIDOR. BOTH DELAYS OF AIRCRAFT AND TEMPORARY REFUSALS OF FRG AIRPORTS TO ACCEPT TRAFFIC ARE ENTIRELY ERRATIC IN PATTERN AND THE SITUATION CHANGES HOURLY. OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH CORRIDOR BETWEEN BERLIN AND HAMBURG/ BREMEN HAVE BEEN MORE NORMAL THAN THOSE THROUGH THE SOUTH CORRIDOR.

5. THE CLOSING OF THE HANNOVER FIR MEANS NO CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC FOR THE PRESENT ON THE NORTH/ SOUTH AIRWAYS (UR 15, UA 9 AND UG 5) IN THE NORTH FRG AIRSPACE. FLIGHTS BETWEEN POINTS SOUTH OF COLOGNE (APPROXIMATELY) AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORTH EUROPE MUST DETOUR TO THE WEST. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE GDR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAVE ALLEGEDLY EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GRANT OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS ON THEIR NORTH/ SOUTH ROUTE (UR -11, UA-4). BOTH LAKER AIRWAYS (UK) AND MODERN AIR TRANSPORT (MAT) INQUIRED OF THE UK AND US CIVIL AIR ATTACHES ON JULY 3 WHETHER THEY MIGHT APPLY TO THE GDR TO FLY

NORTH OR SOUTH OUT OF WEST BERLIN VIA THE GDR AIRWAY TO
AVOID DELAYS IN FRG AIRSPACE.

6. MAT WAS TOLD THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE CLEARED OUT OF
BERLIN TO USE GDR AIRWAYS. (LAKER WAS ALSO REFUSED
BY THE UK CIVIL AIR ATTACHE.)

7. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER WHEN THERE ARE
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE SITUATION.
HILLENBRAND

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